

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

30th Year — No. 15

April 20, 1998



For me?

Becky Boertien freshens up the DSA office with spring flowers on April 13.

(Photo by Victoria Long)

Union issues

Cleaning staff votes to strike

By Richard Berta

The college's cleaning staff voted 100 per cent in favor of a strike on April 2. The issues at stake are monetary but also include benefits, said Ann Wallace, support staff union president.

The support staff are employees of Double M & M, a London-based business, and are working on contract for Conestoga College. She said that employees and management are currently involved in conciliation.

There are 44 full-time and part-time Double M & M employees at the college.

Cleaning staff is responsible for cleaning classrooms, offices and disposing of recycling, among other duties. Most work

on the night shift.

Wallace said that if the college doesn't find the cleaning to its satisfaction, it should bear in mind that the company isn't hiring any more cleaning staff.

The union will soon be starting a campaign titled "Justice for Janitors" and will be handing out buttons to students and faculty alike, said Wallace.

Shortly after the vote was taken, several cleaning staff members could be found outside the college doors in an attempt to inform the student body of their cause and garner support.

"Aside from the question of wages and benefits, the staff want to be treated with respect and have their issues taken seriously," Wallace said.

Fire guts student's home

Couple and son lose lifetime of belongings

By Jeannette Altwegg

What would you feel like if you lost all your possessions in a fire? Would you be upset, frustrated, or both?

Jeff Brown, a third-year Mechanical Engineering Technology-Robotics and Automation student at Doon said he's been on an emotional roller coaster since March 21 when he lost everything in a housefire.

"It's really hard on my son, said Brown in a recent interview. "He looks up at me every day and says 'Why can't I go home?' and there is none.

The fire occurred at around 10:45 p.m. on Tuesday night at Brown's home on King Street East in Preston, causing damages upwards of \$80,000, said Brown.

Along with his wife and two-year-old son, Brown escaped the fire unscathed after hearing the smoke detector go off late at night. He said that, in his opinion, the fire alarm was what saved them.

"Everyone says it's good that we all got out okay and that we can replace what we've lost, Brown said. "But you can't buy everything. The portraits and baby pictures on the wall can't be replaced. Stuff that you got in memory from your grandfather can't be replaced after he's passed away.

Brown said it's still unsure what exactly caused the fire but the fire department believes it could have been due to something being wrong with the dryer.

The family has been staying at a friend's place since the fire, however, Brown said he's worried

that he'll eventually wear out his welcome.

"My son needs his own room and the parents need their own room. We don't have that right now.

In the meantime, Brown and some friends plus his wife have been doing all of the cleaning inside the house.

The family has already received monetary donations from several places as well as children's clothes.

Brown's teachers, classmates, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) have raised over \$700 over the last few weeks.

SME Chair-elect Dana Williams said they raised \$200 for Brown.

Williams said they donated the money from SME funds raised through fundraising.

"We're here for our members if they need help," she said of the organization. "In this case we helped with money. Other times it's with studying or homework. Any way we can help, we try."

Stelian George-Cosh, one of Brown's robotics and automation professors, said he has been getting the faculty involved in the fundraising.

"He (Brown) is in immediate need of basic things right now, George-Cosh said of his student, adding that "nothing can replace the loss but maybe the money will help out a little.

Registrar Fred Harris said the school is also considering a bursary to help Brown.

"We will help the student in any way we can, Harris said in a phone interview, adding that he wasn't at liberty to say how large the

bursary would be.

The bursary would be part of a student assistance fund that the college has set up for situations just like these, Harris said.

"We certainly thought this was a good use of that fund in this situation, said Harris.

There may be one problem, though. Since Brown's only income at the moment consists of his OSAP, some of his teachers are worried the bursary would affect Brown's income.

George-Cosh said he was worried that the Ontario government would reduce Brown's student loan if he accepted the bursary.

Brown, however, said he would take the bursary even if it affected the amount of his OSAP. "I need the money now.

He said although most school materials were lost in the fire, teachers are trying to help him get new books.

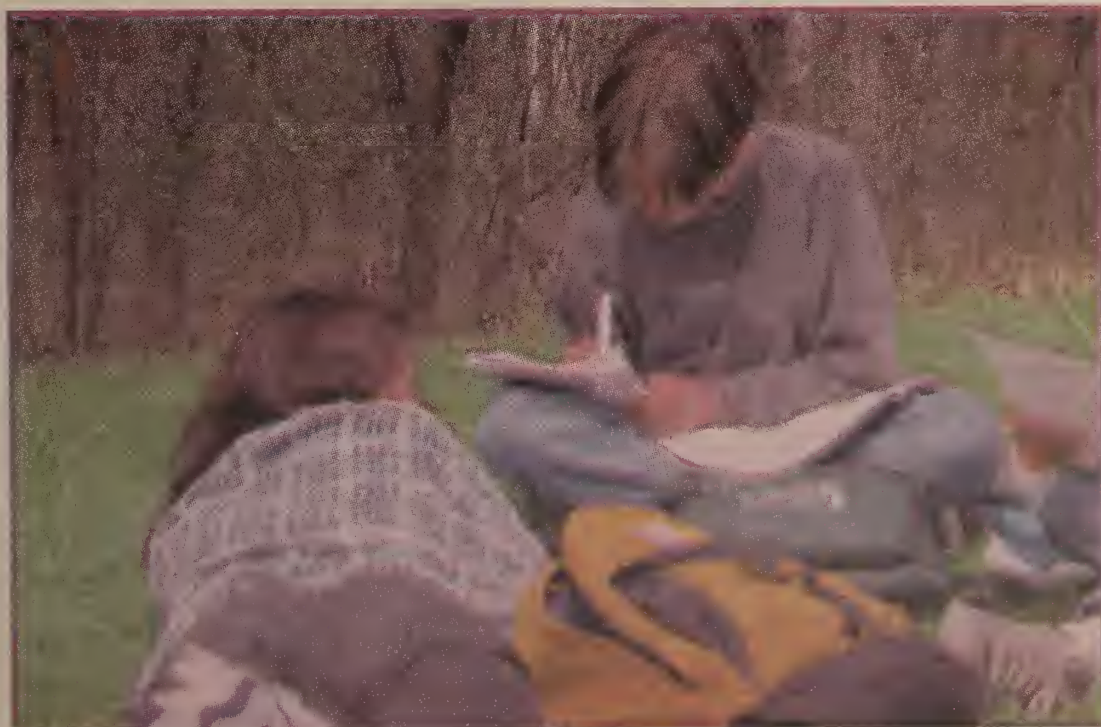
"I still can use about half of them (textbooks), Brown said, "but they're really soggy and they kind of smell bad. But you can still read them on the inside.

Brown said his education is really getting in the way where it concerns his son right now.

"It's hard to do stuff with him when you're away all day long and have homework when you get home.

Brown said he recently took his son to see the damage at their house which was a very challenging experience.

"He looked up and shook his head and said 'What a mess'. Then he looked at me and said 'Where did everything go'?



Hitting the books

Maddy Steinbeck (lying down) and Jeff Corral study for their Introduction to Microprocessors course. They are all first-year electronics technology students.

(Photo by Jeannette Altwegg)

The women bring home the medals

Conestoga's athletic year comes full circle

By Dan Meagher

The athletic season for Condors of all sporting stripes has come to a close, with a few success stories to report.

Conestoga College's teams failed to chase down a championship, but they did manage to find the podium a couple of times.

The women's softball team kicked things off with a bronze medal victory early in the fall. The team was lead by pitcher Jill Kuntz, who took home top individual honors in the league.

The team's showing was the first of two bronze medals brought

home by the women, who also received some hardware in indoor soccer play in March.

The soccer season was filled with ups and downs for our college's four teams.

It began early in the school year when both outdoor teams fell short of their goals despite competitive seasons. That carried over to the indoor season, where the women outshone the men in securing a medal.

Individual honors went to Steph DenHaan and Sasha Greutzmacher, who were named all-stars after the final tournament.

Condor soccer coach Geoff

Johnstone, who heads all four varsity teams, said it was a good group of players to work with this year.

"And the best part is that all of the girls are coming back next year."

The Condor hockey team will not be so lucky, as several of its top guns are not returning, including high-scoring centre Darryl Sinclair, who was recently named the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association's most valuable player. Their season began with a bang, with the team resting atop the standings until Christmas.

However, after that it was all

down hill, with the team falling to third in the OCAA, and eventually losing their playoff contests at the Soo in late March.

Head coach Kevin Hergott, who will not be returning for next season, said his club had a good year despite not achieving its goals. "It's tough to play when you're losing top players at the half way point and gaining guys who haven't been with the system all year long."

Despite falling short of national championships in all of the major sports, the college athletic season was marked by intensely competitive teams and outstanding

individual efforts. Next season bodes well for several of the teams, who used this year as a stepping stone to the future due to rosters laden with young players.

A planned varsity basketball team in for next year has added potential for the success of our college's athletic programs.

Conestoga's athletes had their own chance to shine in an awards banquet that was scheduled to be held on April 17 at the Clarion Inn. Assistant athletic director Marlene Ford said the evening was a chance to honor those who dedicated their time and effort to college athletics in one way or another.

Caring across cultures

By Donna Fierheller

The Waterloo Region community health department will hold a series of three Friday-morning workshops.

Called Caring Across Cultures, the workshops will promote cross-cultural sensitivity among community health and social service providers.

The multicultural health promotion project group will sponsor the workshops, to be held April, May, and June 1998, in Waterloo.

Public health nurse Mary Denomme said Caring Across Cultures will assist participants in learning how to provide more sensitive health care and social support to people from other cultures.

The series will explore Canadian culture, promote better understanding of other cultures, and discuss how changes made by community health and social agencies are working.

The workshop on April 17, Cultural Self-Awareness: The First Step Towards Cross-Cultural Sensitivity, will focus on cultural self-awareness by exploring the nature of Canadian culture through videos,

presentations, and group discussions.

On May 15, Seeing Our World Through Other Cultural Lenses will feature a panel presentation and discussion on common practices and beliefs of people from other cultures. The panel will include people from Latin America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, East Africa, Eastern Europe, and native America.

The final workshop June 12, Caring Across Cultures: How Do We Change? will include workers from several community institutions who will discuss barriers they faced, changes they have made, and successes they have achieved, as well as identifying what remains to be done.

The workshops will be held from 8:45 a.m. until noon, at the Community Health & Social Services building, 99 Regina St. S., Waterloo, in room 508. The total fee for the series is \$5 per person. Participants are asked to register one week prior to the sessions they would like to attend.

Anyone wanting further information is asked to contact Mary Denomme, at (519) 883-2257, or Peggy Nickels at 883-2110, ext. 5339.



Now that's graphic art . . .

These photographs by Conestoga's graphics students that were on display inside Door #5, were meant to evoke emotion. (clockwise from top left) photo by Veronica Tschanz, Brigitte Alge and Lisa Cowey.

(Photo by Casey Johnson)

RETURNING STUDENTS

**Fall Semester Classes
Begin
Monday August 31**

**To Receive Marks
And
Registration Information
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Must Have
Your
Summer Address**

Letter to the Editor

Teachers praised by graduating student

Dear Teachers,

There is something, in my opinion, that we as students take for granted around the College. No, it is not the taste extravaganza of the cafeteria, nor is it the pleasure derived from riding Kitchener Transit's express bus at 7:30 a.m. each day. As great as these two aspects are, there is something much more important. It is our teachers! Surprised? I was.

One afternoon while sitting by the pond, I found myself thinking of what I would miss most upon my graduation this summer. I was shocked to realize that I would miss my teachers. This revelation surprised me because over the course of my two-year program they have thrown so many tests, reports, group work, and what I perceived to be an endless amount of useless workshops and assignments at me, that I became convinced they were out to ensure my

failure and to collect royalties on my tuition. I still believe some of my assignments to be useless, but I now see that my teachers were, in fact, trying to help me. As a result of their assistance, encouragement and complete dedication to their work, I feel extremely confident in facing my future.

You may be asking yourself, "Why is she writing this? Does she want brownie marks?" This is not it, but if it happens I won't complain! It is just that my teachers have done so much for my classmates and I, I felt something should be done to recognize their efforts.

Of course, I did not see eye-to-eye with all my teachers. I do not believe that is possible considering the number of teachers a student has per semester. There are bound to be some differences. C'est la vie! However, there are a few teachers I would like to point out:

Sheila B. - I now have a new respect for the comma!

Brian T. - My first perfect test mark in math. Something I never thought possible.

Harry A. - He made accounting fun!

Bob P. - I think elective teachers are especially taken for granted, as students are just "passing through" these classes. However, Bob's class was fun, interesting, and it is obvious that he likes teaching it.

Last but not least, Sheila M. - Where would the program be without her, and I am sure one day I will appreciate Excel. Right?

To all the teachers I have not mentioned, you have all made some sort of impact on me. Thank you one and all!

So how 'bout those brownie marks guys?

Jennifer Fritz
Second-year Microcomputer
administration

Conrad launches revolution

Media mogul Conrad Black's much awaited plans to launch another paper of his own, has so far been revealed to be much ado about nothing.

Black doesn't have anything concrete nailed down with regard to his much vaunted product, no name or style, let alone a launch date. Only a promise that it will be a "real" national paper — unlike its competitor The Globe & Mail, as he never tires of saying.

For its own part, The Globe & Mail has been relishing the thought of competition — at least in the open — even suggesting names for Black's paper such as: The Barbara Bugel, Conrad's Heart of Darkness and The Barbara & Black. Globe publisher Roger Parkinson was reported to have said that the prospect of competition has already gotten his "juices flowing."

This news in turn, was said to have ruffled a few feathers in Black's Hollinger Inc. It is strange that a multimillion dollar paper chain such as Hollinger Inc. should have been caught off guard by someone announcing the joys of competition.

Indeed, for all the blather from CEOs exalting competition, they sure seem to be morbidly afraid of it when it actually arises. Their immediate instinct is to squash it. Hollinger has reacted to competition in this manner, i.e. by buying out its rivals. Whether some of the papers bought were actually in need of improvement has become a moot point.

The reality is that for Hollinger Inc., and the other newspaper monolith Thomson Inc. — which control 70 per cent of the newspaper market between them — buying out the market rather than true competition, has become a way of doing business. They are able to consume smaller papers, weeklies and dailies, not because their product is necessarily better per se, but because they are able to bring to bear greater reserves of capital with which to undercut and out-sell their competitors.

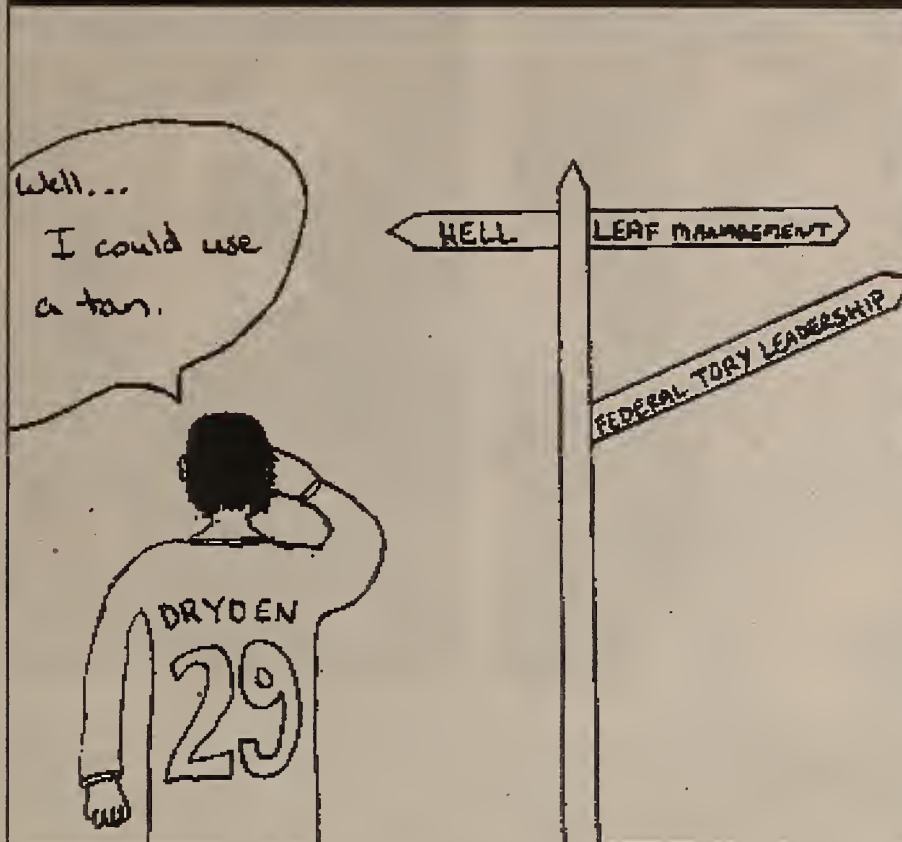
Once absorbed, there is no room for dissenting opinion within the conglomeration, and dissenters are brought into line or sacked. The paper may continue to exist of course — name, masthead, perhaps even the editorial staff may all be unchanged — but it will be spouting the conglomerate's line and following an agenda as dictated to it from above.

No, business is not inherently good. And someone who points out the failings of big business is no more a socialist/marxist than someone who criticizes the government is an anarchist.

The concern here is with papers becoming unduly concentrated in the hands of a few corporations, namely Hollinger and Thomson, in the Canadian case.

Oligopolies and monopolies over a product can be as effective a barrier to free expression as any government pressure or censorship. Especially when that product is a newspaper, this barrier to free expression becomes invidious.

Dryden's dilemma



Angry students challenge DSA

Recently, a group of people calling themselves "concerned marketing students" walked into Spoke's office with a letter responding to DSA claims that student involvement is down.

The group's letter was unsigned, which is against Spoke policy for printing, but it did make some good points. The group said certain DSA members expect students to attend all functions and get extensively involved when their school schedules don't allow it. They were upset that DSA members, who they claim are more committed to their DSA duties than their studies, take an unrealistic view as to what time a student can spare to participate in extra-curricular activities.

In most cases the demands, placed upon students, extremely limit the time they have for other ventures, and it is unreasonable to expect any dedicated student to be very active in DSA-sponsored activities. The hard work of the DSA members is not in question — they do quality work and are highly committed to the student body — but it should not lead to criticisms directed toward equally hard-working students who simply don't have the time to participate.

It all comes down to freedom of choice. While DSA members have the right to choose how much time they will invest in organizing activities, students also have the right to choose not to invest their time participating in these events, and both sides have to respect that.

Musicians' deaths draw parallels

By Lisa Roberts

On April 8, the music world commemorated the four-year anniversary of the suicide of Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain. As the lyricist and vocalist for one of Seattle's best offerings, Cobain unwittingly reached thousands of anguished and confused youth. In doing so, he also managed to encapsulate the inner turmoil I also suffered during that turbulent time period.

However, as the world mourned for the umpteenth time, more names were added to the roster of deceased musicians. Roz Williams, singer and lyricist for goth-punk band Christian Death, committed suicide earlier that week. Cozy Powell, former drummer for numerous bands including Black Sabbath, lost his life when his car wrapped around a tree. And Rob Pilatus, one half of the '80s duo Milli Vanilli, made his way to rock and roll heaven.

For me, the most shocking addition to this list was Wendy Orlean Williams, leader of punk-metal band The Plasmatics. Wendy O., as she was known to fans, was recognized more for her live performances; such as destroying on-stage gear with sledgehammers and chainsaws, than for her musicianship.

On April 7, Williams's longtime companion Rob Swenson found her in a wood-

ed area behind their house in Connecticut. She had died of a gunshot wound to the head, and a pistol lay near her body.

Williams was perhaps the loudest, meanest, and toughest woman in metal music in the early '80s. She would perform her own stunts during performances, such as driving into a stage set filled with explosives but jumping out of the car seconds before impact. Williams was also a strict vegetarian and a wildlife rehabilitator, something that wouldn't be expected of someone of her persona.

Because of her ability to overcome any obstacles set before her by the music industry or otherwise, and because of her convictions to be strong and female at the same time without conflict, she was one of the biggest influences on my life.

According to a CNN news release dated April 8, 1998, Swenson told the press that Williams had been feeling despondent for some time. In private conversations with Swenson, she revealed that she felt her career had peaked and therefore she didn't care to live below peak in a world in which she felt uncomfortable.

This is comparable to the suicide letter Cobain left, in which he described the lack of emotion he felt when performing, and that he no longer experienced the excitement of performing his craft in general.

Upon hearing of both deaths, I felt a great sense of loss and disappointment. After all, both musicians were ground-breakers in their own right. Williams proved to women everywhere that they could be taken seriously regardless of career choice, providing they wouldn't allow themselves to be pigeon-holed into some outdated stereotype.

Cobain was the singer and songwriter for one of the '90s most influential bands. The grunge movement should be commended for bringing the music industry back to an independent, grass-roots level, which was the same result punk had in the '70s.

Both grunge and punk were straightforward and aggressive, and both genres produced artists that would inspire thousands of followers.

Williams became an indirect mentor for me when I was an impressionable age because she didn't let her gender stop her from achieving her goals. Cobain continued my idol worship by venting his most private feelings of despair at top volume to a backdrop of distortion, which seemed to suit the lyrics.

They were, and still are, missed dearly for the impressions they left on the music world.

Their voices may have been silenced one way, but the impact they left behind resounds loud and clear.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

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Year-end DSA bash successful

By Lisa Roberts

The way things looked at Mrs. Robinson's the night of April 8, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

That's because the Doon Student Association put together its most successful student activity of the 1997-98 school year, with a year-end bash at the Kitchener venue.

According to Jenn Hussey, promotions assistant for the DSA, the event was a success.

"The ticket sales were good," she said. "Before the doors opened, we didn't sell as many tickets, so we were a little concerned. But by 10:30 we sold as many tickets as we thought we would, and it went great."

The DSA said a final count at around 10:30 p.m. put the total attendance at 200 guests.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Gandharvas and Junkhouse.

Gandharvas went on first to warm up the crowd, although their performance was somewhat disappointing.

It may have been because of the many road miles the band covered on their latest promotional tour, but vocalist Paul Jago sounded tired and off-key throughout the show.

They included newer material in their set, including Watching The Girl. A pumped-up version of First Day Of Spring, from their first

album, A Soap Bubble And Inertia, was performed as well. However, this didn't save their set from becoming second-rate, compared to the series of shows the band

embarked upon in 1994 to support their debut release.

On the other hand, Junkhouse delivered a set that satisfied even the most jaded attendees. Vocalist

Tom Wilson seemed reminiscent of the last time Junkhouse appeared at Mrs. Robinson's, which was in late January.

"We've been on the road for

eight-and-a-half weeks since we were last here," said Wilson during a pre-show chat.

"All we're doing now is one-off shows like these. Since the end of the tour, it's nice to be able to go to bed before midnight and get some decent sleep. We actually want to go to bed around 10:30 now."

The band underwent a national tour to support their latest album, Fuzz, which took them from coast to coast. According to Wilson, it wasn't disappointing.

"The shows in Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary were great," Wilson enthused. "There was one show we played at Richard's On Richards in Vancouver, and it went well."

The band opened with Pearly White and Super Scar, both taken from Fuzz. They quickly followed them up with tracks from their first album, Strays, including Out Of My Head and Gimme The Luv.

They decided to close their set with Shine, the band's most successful single to date, which was well-received by everyone in attendance at Mrs. Robinson's.

Despite the lack of participants at other DSA-sponsored activities, Hussey said she was content with the number of attendees at the year-end bash.

"It wasn't completely packed like Loose Change Louie's," said Hussey, "but it wasn't close to empty either. Overall, it went well."



Lead vocalist Tom Wilson of the band Junkhouse (left), and Gandharvas' lead singer Paul Jago (right) performed at the DSA's year end bash April 8 at Mrs. Robinson's in Kitchener.

(Photos by Lisa Roberts)

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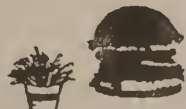
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Doon's peer tutors shown appreciation

By Dee Bettencourt

Approximately 60 peer tutors attended a reception held in their honor April 8, along with Conestoga College President John Tibbits, Vice-President Kevin Mullan, student-services personnel, various faculty members, the international office, and clerical staff who have direct contact with the students.

"It is nice to give credit where credit belongs," says Myrna Nicholas from peer-services administration in student services. "With peer tutoring, everybody wins. Even the tutors' marks go up."

Over 100 such colleagues have helped tutor Conestoga College students since last September.

Besides receiving certificates of appreciation from the college, letters from students they've helped and fingerfood at the late-afternoon gathering, many peers have also received paycheques throughout the year.

There are many categories of peers. Voluntary positions include peer hosts who assist international students and peer mentors who help first-year, special-needs students adjust to college life.

Paid positions include orientation assistants who direct incoming students at the start of the term (paid \$7 per hour), access-lab monitors (\$8 per hour), and peer tutors for individual or group instruction (\$8 per hour, or \$10 per hour if experienced). Both

tutor-timetabled tutorials for mechanical, electronics or business programs and literacy-lab tutors earn \$10 per hour.

Peer computer coaches assist with the popular computer hotline (computercoach) and are also sometimes hired by staff, administration or faculty. They are paid through a professional development fund not associated with student services.

Nicholas says that peer health educators are selected only from fifth-semester nursing students. The peer health educators tutor students on issues of community concern while receiving a credit for their nursing program. An e-mail address will be offered in the fall so students can remain anonymous while tapping into medical information.

A one-semester course called "The theory and application of peer-assisted learning", is offered by the college to help meet student interest in peer support.

Nicholas is currently interviewing students to select September's new peers. She says the skills she is looking for in these applicants include effective study habits, an open personality, patience, an ability to creatively explain concepts, organizational aptitude and good communication and listening skills.

"To apply, students should come into the student-services office, pick up an application form and book an appointment," says Nicholas.

It's a small world after all is said and done

Doon students questioned on willingness to try fairly traded coffee

By Victoria Long

An informal survey of Conestoga College's Doon Campus cup-carrying coffee drinkers conducted on April 13 revealed a predominantly positive attitude to trying fairly traded coffee if it were available on campus.

Higher cost and uncertainty about the quality of flavor were the main concerns mentioned, while the good feeling that would come from knowing the usually unimportant act of buying a cup of coffee could mean lessening poverty for the family that grew the beans was the main incentive named.

Certified fairly traded coffee isn't easy to find in the Kitchener-Waterloo area according to Wilma Bindemagel, a member of the local Ten Days for Global Justice committee. This organization has chosen to promote fair trade in coffee as their 1998 nationwide project. Ten Days supports fair trade overall, but coffee was chosen for this year's campaign because it is the most traded commodity worldwide, Bindemagel said.

Kitchener's Black Gold mobile coffee service sells Bridgehead coffee, one of the better known fair trade brands. Owner, Bruce Cutting said in an interview that the wholesale price of Bridgehead is 50 to 60 per cent higher than the other brands of coffee he sells, so his profit level is lower on the fairly traded brand.

But profit isn't the only motivator for Cutting who said he is a member of some social action groups. "My objective is to let my customers know it's available — to educate them — but, I can't offer only fairly traded coffee because of the price."

Rosie Steinmann manages the Ten Thousand Villages shop which opened last September in Waterloo. Steinmann said in an interview that the Ten Days campaign has already boosted their fairly traded coffee sales.

"I drink the coffee because it's absolutely fantastic," Steinmann said. "But, more importantly, this is how I want to spend my money. I want to educate my customers that this is what we should be paying: other coffee is too cheap." At Conestoga, student Rick Vanderheide in his first year of construction engineering technology, said he agrees with the fair-trade initiative but wonders how long it will take to achieve the volume where economies of scale

would be a factor.

"The price should actually go down because you've cut out the middle person," he said.

Mohammed Mulas, a second-year electronics technology student, said he would support fair trade coffee. His classmate, Osama Elgadi said, "I support it because I think the money then goes to poor people. It's like sharing — we're helping each other and we have to help each other. That's life."

Continuing education students, Donna and Donald Stephen were both positive about the idea of buying fairly traded coffee.

Donald, an occupational health and safety student, said he would support fair-trade coffee. "I think everybody has to be on an equal footing and approached on an equal basis. Equal pay for work of equal value, definitely. We boycott certain stores and certain brands of shoes because what we have to look at now is the fact that there's no such thing as isolation anymore," he said.

Donna, a student in a health-care

aide course, said, "What we're doing in the Third World countries could very well be happening to us tomorrow."

Students typically get by on a restricted budget. This fact was reflected in some of the more pragmatic answers to the question of trying fairly traded coffee.

Dave Sullivan, a second-year electronics engineering technician (analog) student, said he'd choose the cup of coffee that cost the least regardless of taste or social costs.

Second-year accounting student Amy Hughes said, "I grab the

nearest cup of coffee on the way to class. After proximity, price is my first concern so, if I had the choice to buy fairly traded coffee and it was the same price, I'd buy it."

Larry Murphy, in his second year of the numerical control technician program, said, "If it was good coffee I'd buy it. I have a bit of a conscience, so if it [regularly traded coffee] means people are being taken advantage of, I'd steer clear of it to help them."

Second-year business management student Tony Alaimo said he

would buy fairly traded coffee if it tasted good.

Rich Ventura, in his second year in management studies, was adamant that good taste is the key. "We've been asking for a Tim Horton's around here," he said.

Some students expressed enthusiasm for the brand names currently available on campus.

"I come here to buy Roasters Irish Cream, or Sinful Cinnamon when it's available, even when I haven't got classes," said Ian McKie, a second year electronics technologist (computer systems) student.

"I've been drinking Roasters coffee for about three years now and I'll stick with it," said his classmate, Allan Robinson.

Taste was also top priority for Sarah Sherbourne, a third-year broadcasting student who was interviewed while drinking a Tim Horton's coffee. Sherbourne said she'd try fairly traded coffee if it were offered at the college. "If the coffee's good, I'd drink it. If it tasted good, I'd buy it," she said.

Others said they would be swayed by social benefits to growers despite paying a premium price. "I'd try it and if it tasted all right I'd be willing to pay about a dime more a cup if I liked it," said Ralph Logan, a first-year mechanical engineering student in the robotics and automation program.

Peter Forsey, a paramedic student, said, "Yes, I'd buy it. There's enough ways they [Third World people] are getting screwed to support our lifestyle already."

"I may have more faith than some in human nature," said part-time journalism professor Michael Dale. "I would try it and I would be prepared to pay a premium for it," he said.

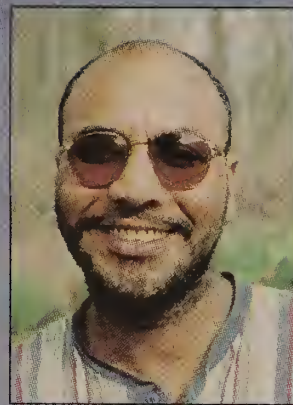
"Why? For philosophical reasons, I think most people wouldn't want to think their buying habits are exploiting someone somewhere."



Allan Robinson, second year engineering technology



Donna Stephen, continuing education health care aide



Osama Elgadi, second year electronics technology



Tony Alaimo, second year business management



Peter Forsey, paramedic program



Sarah Sherbourne, third year broadcasting

(Photos by Victoria Long)

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WRAP UP FOR THIS YEAR

AND

PLANNING FOR NEXT

Hepatitis B clinic held at Doon campus

By Lisa Roberts

Nursing and LASA students had an uncomfortable Monday when a Hepatitis B vaccination clinic took place at Doon campus on April 13. All LASA and nursing students had to report to the makeshift clinic

to receive the first of three vaccinations for the deadly disease. Anne Brown, a registered nurse with Paramed, was on hand to administer the needles. "A lot of students needed to be vaccinated," she said. "For nursing and law and security students, it's a mandatory

vaccination because they're more likely to come into contact with the disease." Hepatitis B is a sexually transmitted disease that is spread through body fluids, like blood and genital fluids. After the first dose is adminis-

tered, persons receiving the vaccinations must return for a second dose in a month, and a third after six months, Brown said. "They're all the same vaccine, but it must be administered three times." Brown also said the turnout for the clinic was disappointing.

The best methods of protection against Hepatitis B are similar to those for HIV, Brown said. Some of these common-sense solutions include not having multiple sex partners. "I have very strong feelings about this, you need to have a monogamous relationship."



Expressions 23

Student art is on display at the Kitchener/Waterloo Art Gallery until May 10, sponsored by Manulife Financial and the Region's school boards. This view is seen at the entrance to the exhibit in the Kitchener/Waterloo Art Gallery in the Centre in the Square. (Photo by Victoria Long)

U of G Cannabis Carnival smokes

By Anita Santarossa

I've never been to the University of Guelph so I wasn't sure where to find the CannabisCarnival that was held at the psychedelic cannon April 7.

However, it didn't take long until my nostrils caught a whiff of a distant but distinct odor derived from that green weed, which led me directly to the site.

One minute in the "normal" routine of everyday society, the next in a cloud of pot-smoking pilgrims voicing their opinion in the age-old debate over the legalization of marijuana.

A small, peaceful yet vocal assembly of musicians, speakers and freedom advocates gathered outside the student centre on the 22C temperature day of sunshine. Several booths were set-up to provide awareness on the issues surrounding the legalization of marijuana.

Jeannette Tossounian of the Medical Marijuana Club of Ontario represented those using the drug for medical purposes. She has recently established a club in Kitchener-Waterloo called Mari-juana Uses for Medicine (MUM) and is hoping to help people obtain marijuana through safer means.

"What I am doing is illegal, but it is safer than getting it off the streets," said Tossounian in an interview after her speech.

She provides doctors forms to fill out for individuals with ailments such as HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, paraplegia, glaucoma, muscular dystrophy, cancer, multiple sclerosis and arthritis. To obtain a limited amount of marijuana, depending on the seriousness of your illness, you must get the form signed by your doctor, said Tossounian.

Currently helping 10 clients, Tossounian is hoping to reach

more people. She has a background in herbology and says she has learned a lot through the internet as well.

"I am trying to provide an alternative for those who aren't 'pot-heads' and who are having trouble finding marijuana for medical purposes," she said.

Current client of Tossounian, Brenda Rochford, 43, of Milverton, Ont. has Ehlers-Danlos syndrome which weakens the muscles through severe spasms. She is also prone to glaucoma, resulting from her primary condition.

When asked about the differences between the legally prescribed pill form and the natural form of the drug, Rochford said the differences are astonishing.

"The pill form is synthetic and it makes you so stoned that you can't do anything. You can't eat and the stone lasts for too long," said Rochford.

Rochford likes the fact that smoking marijuana is more mellow and she can go about her daily routine without passing out or being in pain.

The day continued with more speakers including Reverend Brother Walter Tucker and fellow Brother Michael Baldasaro, who were honored guests.

"The government has had no right to take this 'tree of life' away from us in the first place," said Tucker, "all of us must defend our rights to put into our bodies what is naturally good for us."

After his brief, yet crowd pleasing, speech Tucker lit up a joint and joined the crowd to listen to several other speakers voice their concerns on the issue.

Workshops explaining the different uses of hemp, fibrous stalks of the non-psychoactive form of cannabis, and how to grow your own marijuana filled the remainder of the afternoon.

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CanabisCarnival gathering was at the University of Guelph on April 7. (Photo by Anita Santarossa)

UW student has show at K-W Art Gallery

By Victoria Long

Shi Le, an artist from China who is just completing a Master's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo, has a one-man show at the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery in the Centre in the Square running until May 17. The show, *Landscapes*: a selective view comprises a series of magnifications of scenes from nature Shi painted in Canada.

"Waterloo, a small city in southern Ontario, and its surrounding agricultural area are the sources of my art. Cattle grazing on the bank of the river, the smell of manure floating in the air, a gurgling creek winding through the woods and an old tree decaying in the open-field are important and wondrous to me, and resonate in my heart like the pulse of nature," Shi wrote in an introduction to his show.

He said his artistic aim is to be honest with his heart and his eyes which would result in being honest with his audience.

The 19 works in the show are large canvas and small plywood paintings. Shi said in terms of format, he prefers a square because it centralizes and focuses the movement in the scene. "My commitment to compose structures of dynamic equilibrium is central to my aesthetic value — balance," he wrote and explained his philosophy of life comes from Taoism, best known to westerners for the T'ai-Chi diagram, or yin-yang symbol as it is more commonly known here, which embodies the constant interplay inherent in dualism.

His technique is to find a small natural scene that inspires him, study it, then go back to his studio and pour acrylic paint on the canvas or plywood with loose brushstrokes to get a sense of the shapes and colors he wants to use. When he has a clear sense of what he wants to see in the finished painting, he lets the acrylic dry and executes the final oilpainting on top of it.

Shi was born in a small town in Sichuan Province where his parents were performing artists in plays whose subject matter was social issues. During the Cultural Revolution, from 1966 to 1976, they were labelled reactionaries and sent to a labor camp. That and the fact that his parents had once worked for the Nationalist Government meant Shi and his sisters



Artist Shi Le stands beside his painting *Nightmare*. Shi explains the symbolism of the broken power lines and insulators as Man's urge to have power over nature which has often resulted in a destructive clash. (Photo by Victoria Long)



and brothers lost their right to go to high school. They were regarded as children of the "five black classes" who were regarded as enemies of the country — landlords, rich peasants, reactionaries, criminals and those with rightist political views.

Shi said he does not like to deal with human subjects in his art after this experience when he felt there was no hope or happiness in his family's life of poverty and social exclusion.

Later, Shi was able to go to the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, the only art school for students from Tibet and the entire western area of China. After he graduated, Shi taught at the institute for about 10 years.

His early work was in the traditional style of Chinese brush work. Shi said his education in Chongqing stressed study of Russian works and the luminists' landscape painting was his favorite.

Painters of that school, such as Surikov and Levitan, as well as English impressionists Sickert and Sisley influenced his choice of colors for painting nature. The subtle uses of tonal values in coloring help him reduce any sharp contrasts and accentuate the harmony he sees in the natural world, Shi explains.

"From a Chinese perspective, landscape is a form of visual lan-

guage, a language that can communicate with nature and with people. Doing landscape painting is a performance, in which artists interpret nature and express their understanding of nature through the visual language," Shi wrote. "Through my art, I intend to understand the eternity of nature, its undaunted persistence, exuberance, peacefulness, tranquility, and its harmony."

Then, when his wife decided to come to Canada to study at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld. Shi and their daughter joined her after a year. While Mrs. Shi did a doctorate in education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Shi supported the family by working as a graphics artist in Brampton doing color separations for engravings. In his introduction to the show, Shi wrote that initially, he had difficulties surmounting the language barrier in Canada and felt bitter. "All these hard experiences led me to believe the world of the human is harder, uglier, crueler than that world of nature. This was a belief felt both in Canada and China. Only in nature did I feel at home. I realize that nature is the home of all human beings and some day all human beings will go back to nature."

For the past two years, he has been studying at UW during the week and has only been able to be

with his family on weekends since Mrs. Shi works at OISE in Toronto. At the urging of one of his profs, Shi started to look at Canadian landscapes and decided to change his perspective in painting from macro-view to the magnified micro-view which the creek series and tree series in the exhibit exemplify. "With the scale exaggerated, motions are created in both the physical and psychic beings," he said. "The large scale creates the movement of simultaneously drawing in and pushing back the viewer."

Admission to the gallery is by donation. It is open every day but Monday.

Shi says what he investigates in his art is not only the physical world, but also his reaction to it. "For me, the images are the overlapping of the exterior reality of the physical world and the interior reality of my heart," he said.

Please treat yourself to a little while in the magical natural world of Shi Le.



Below: Shi Le tells a young gallerygoer the story of the "old man", the oak tree embodied in the painting, *Ask Him?* "The oak tree knows the history — ask him so you can know where your roots are. You can ask him anything." (Photo by Victoria Long)



Shi Le poses beside one of his *Tree Series*, *The Tree On Bank Of Grand River*. (Photo by Victoria Long)



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